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REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-24 have been amended, and new claims 25-35 have been added. Claims 1-35 are presently pending in the application.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Dung Le for his careful review of the present application and thorough search of the prior art, and for his indication that claims 6-10 and 15-19 contain allowable subject matter. New claims 25-35 correspond to these claims.

The Office Action objected to Figures 1a-1d, requiring that they be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." In response, Applicant submits herewith as Appendix A new Figures 1a-1d.

Claim 20 has been amended to change its dependence onto claim 15, in response to the Examiner's objection.

Regarding the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. Sections 102 and 103 as being anticipated or obvious in view of various prior-art references, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Le for the oral correspondences with Applicant's representative, Kenton R. Mullins, on April 13th and April 14th, 2004, at which time it was indicated by Examiner Le that independent claims 1, 11 and 21 as presently amended appear to distinguish over the prior art of record. Examiner Le reserved the right to review the file and conduct an update search. Accordingly, Applicant request that the outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 22, 2004

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APPENDIX A

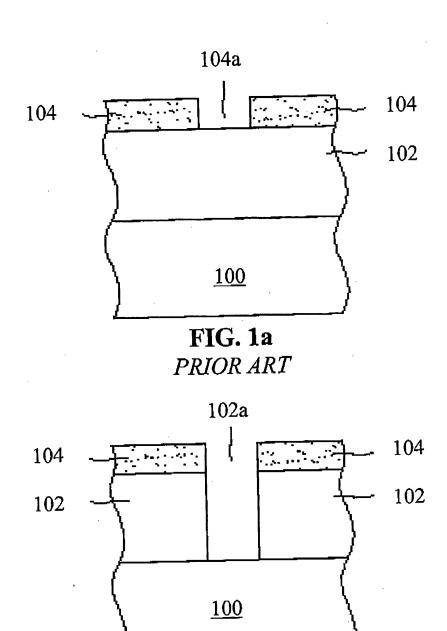


FIG. 1b
PRIOR ART

